

The year 1955 was an active one for the International Joint Commission. Besides the two semi-annual meetings which were held at Washington and Ottawa in April and October respectively, executive sessions were held at New York in January, at Montreal in March and October, and at Buffalo in May. Public hearings on the levels of Lake Ontario reference were held in Rochester, New York, and Toronto, Ontario, in April; on the Souris River reference in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Minot, North Dakota, and Estevan, Saskatchewan, in September; and on the Creston Reclamation Company application, in Creston, British Columbia, and Bonners Ferry, Idaho, in September.

One of the more important matters under consideration by the International Joint Commission in 1955 was the Columbia River reference. At the semi-annual meeting in April, the chairman of the Canadian Section outlined a Canadian proposal which envisaged the diversion of 15,000,000 acre feet of water annually from the Columbia River into the Fraser River basin with the purpose of regulating the flows of the Thompson and Fraser Rivers in the interest of power development. In addition, the necessity for giving serious consideration to the question of payment to Canada for downstream benefits received as a result of storage which may be provided by this country was raised. The reply of the United States Government to the proposed diversion was made by the chairman of the United States Section at the October meeting. The reply indicated that it was the view of the United States Government that such action by Canada would cause a very serious injury to the United States, and that, as a sovereign state, the United States would not be limited to redress provided for an injured party under Article II of the Boundary Waters Treaty. The chairman of the Canadian Section stated that the legality of the proposed diversion had been given full consideration but because of the importance of this matter to both countries the statement of the chairman of the United States Section of the Commission would be given careful study by the Canadian Section.

In September hearings were held in Manitoba, North Dakota, and Saskatchewan on the Souris reference of 1940, to determine the views of government and municipal officials and private individuals on the requirements of the various areas for water from the Souris River. It is hoped that as soon as the evidence can be properly assessed, it will be possible for the Commission to recommend to the two governments a final apportionment of the waters of the Souris.

Two other matters before the Commission are nearing completion—the Sage Creek reference and the application of the Creston Reclamation Company in the Kootenay and Duck Lake area of British Columbia.

A reference was submitted to the Commission by the United States and Canadian Governments on June 10, requesting an investigation and report on the water resources of the St. Croix River basin. The International St. Croix River Engineering Board, which was appointed by the Commission to assist in the investigation, has made a preliminary survey of the basin, and organization of the necessary studies is now well under way.

Technical studies are being continued in connection with pollution of the air in the Detroit-Windsor area and pollution of boundary waters in the connecting channels of the Great Lakes. The continued pollution of boundary waters by municipalities in both Canada and the United